

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 have been examined, claim 1 being independent. By the amendment above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4 therein, claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of (original) claim 1 thereby placing claim 2 in independent form, and claim 4 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

In the pending Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States Published Patent Application No. 2002/0025222 A1 (Attar). The Examiner objected to claims 2-4, and indicated that those claims would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

By the amendment above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4, thereby re-presenting (former) claim 4 in allowable form. Claim 2 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 1, from which it depended directly, thereby presenting claim 2 in allowable (independent) form. Claim 3 depends from (allowable) claim 2, and is therefore also allowable.

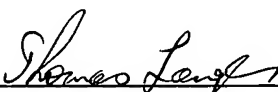
The Examiner also objected to the Abstract as including surplusage. By the above amendment, the Abstract has been amended to eliminate all unnecessary wording, and to comply with the word count limitations of M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b).

There being no further grounds for objection or rejection, early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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